



Texas Department of Transportation

Providing safe, effective, and efficient movement of people and goods.

Texas Transportation Forum

Sunset Advisory Commission: Two Years Later

TxDOT and Public Involvement

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Scope of Work

Incorporate input from a variety of sources to draft an agency-wide policy that will enhance the public



Town hall meeting in Hempstead, Texas

Methodology and Resources

- **Federal, Texas, and TxDOT guidelines and processes**
- **Meeting observations**
- **Review of other state departments of transportation**
- **Review of Fort Worth Public Works project process**

Methodology and Resources, cont.

- **Sunset Advisory Commission and Grant Thornton reports**
- **Interviews**
 - **TxDOT employees**
 - **Other government stakeholders**
 - **Representatives of the Sunset Advisory Commission**

Observations and Findings

- **TxDOT guidelines and procedures**
 - **Well-developed, in-depth**
 - **Aligned with federal and state regulations**
 - **State-of-the-art when compared to documents from other states**



Meeting Observations

- **Materials prepared; relevant brochures and handouts**
- **Staff engaging and open about soliciting involvement**
- **Open house format; not particularly well-understood by attendees**



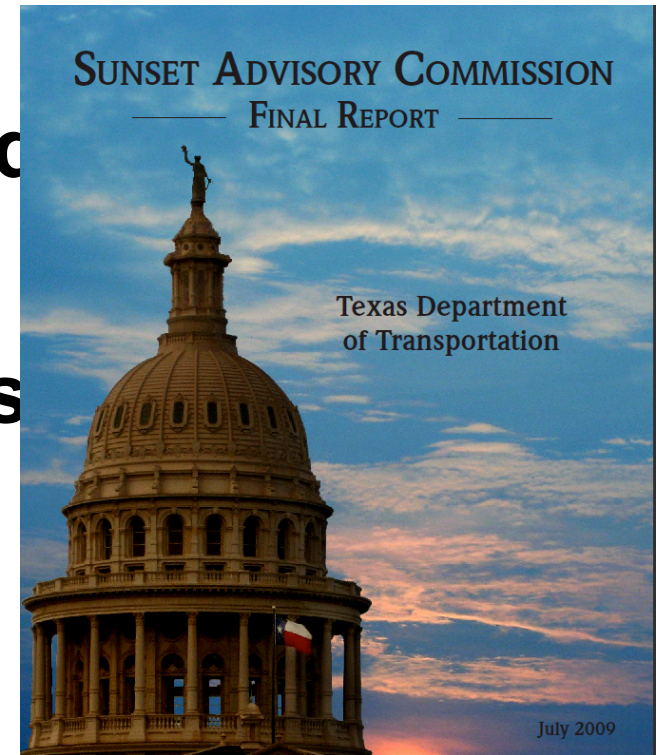
Review of Other State DOT Policy Statements

- Materials from all 50 states reviewed (hard copy or on-line)
- Twenty-five percent* with a clear policy statement using the word **policy** or **philosophy**
- Scanned for word choice, structure, written purpose or intent

*Rounded

Sunset Advisory Commission Report, Interviews, and Grant Thornton Report

- Encourage consistent, meaningful public involvement.
- Focus on more agency-wide applications.
- Share best practices across districts and among staff.



Sunset Advisory Commission Report, Interviews, and Grant Thornton Report, cont.

- Clarify and clearly show how public input is used in decision
- Create a culture of respect between TxDOT and stakeholders.
- Increase and improve use of web-based programs

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Management and Organizational Review
Final Report

INTRODUCTION and PART I

May 26, 2010



Interviews with Stakeholders and TxDOT Staff

- Varying degrees of awareness about available documents, manuals for public involvement
- City officials rated TxDOT public involvement



Draft Policy Statement

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) commits to purposefully involve the public in planning and project implementation by providing for early, continuous, transparent and effective access to information and decision-making processes. TxDOT will regularly update public involvement methods to include best practices in public involvement and incorporate a range of strategies to encourage broad participation reflective of the needs of the state's population.

Policy Statement Objectives

- **Eight Supporting Objectives including:**
 - **Encourage proactive involvement that is fully integrated and incorporated into planning activities.**
 - **Establish and maintain TxDOT's reputation as a trusted source of information.**
 - **Proactively seek early, continuing input and be responsive to inquiries and suggestions.**

Recommendations

- **Continue to cultivate a culture of early outreach that welcomes comments.**
- **Prepare a written debriefing assessment of each meeting.**
- **Develop a response mechanism.**
- **Create a compendium of best practices and success stories available on website.**

Recommendations, cont.

- **Increase use of non-traditional outreach and involvement strategies.**
- **Develop and make widespread use of a template of meeting styles and types.**
- **Be careful about nomenclature and published descriptions.**
- **Require public involvement retooling.**

Thank You!



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